

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 22, 2018

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CITY OF COVINGTON SECURES \$1.4 MILLION WITH PASSING OF STATE CAPITAL BUDGET

Covington, WA – With the passing of the long-awaited capital budget by the state legislature on Jan. 19, the City of Covington will be receiving \$820,000 in funding for the Covington Town Center project and \$592,000 in funding for the SoCo (South Covington) Park project. The funding appropriations will assist the city in acquisition of property needed for each project.

Through conducting citizen surveys and hosting many community workshops and meetings over the past several years, the community has continued to re-confirm its desire for more parks and trails in Covington, as well as for a more pedestrian-friendly downtown area.

"As a long-time resident, in addition to serving as mayor, I am thrilled to see projects in Covington's Town Center progressing," said Covington Mayor Jeff Wagner. "This has been a council and community vision for some time."

The vision for the Town Center Project is to provide a downtown public gathering place with a public plaza, pedestrian-oriented streets, a mixed-use residential, commercial, and/or office building, and connection to SoCo Park.

The SoCo Park site, at 17081 SE Wax Road, will ultimately provide neighborhood park service to the new multifamily residences and existing single family neighborhood in the Town Center area. This project helps address the significant shortage of neighborhood parks, is part of the town center vision, and provides a critical connection for a future Jenkins Creek Trail.

Questions about the Covington Town Center Project can be director to Richard Hart, Community Development Director, at 253-480-2400 or rhart@covingtonwa.gov. Questions about the SoCo Park project can be directed to Mary Gardocki, Parks Project Manager, at 253-480-2488 or mgardocki@covingtonwa.gov.